

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1, 11, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nishimura (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0002829) in view of Chiang (U.S. Pat. No. 6,271,822).

Claims 2-9, 12, 14, 15 and 17-20 stand objected to but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of Amendment

Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 14, 16 and 18-20 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 14, 16 and 18-20 are pending for consideration.

All Claims Allowable

Claims 1, 11, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nishimura in view of Chiang. However, claims 2-9, 12, 14, 15 and 17-20 stand objected to but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

While Applicants disagree with the §103 rejection over Nishimura in view of Chiang, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants have rewritten independent claims 1, 11, and 16

to incorporate their respective allowable dependent claims 2, 3, 12, and 17. Claims 2, 3, 12, and 17 have been cancelled accordingly. Therefore, no new matter has been added, and Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 11, and 16, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. Further, dependent claims 4-9, 14 and 18-20 depend from one of independent claims 1, 11, and 16, thereby incorporating all the features of their respective base claims. Accordingly, dependent claims 4-9, 14 and 18-20 are also in condition for allowance due to at least their dependence to one of allowable independent claims 1, 11, and 16.

Applicants respectfully submit that, by the amendment above, the §103 rejections to claims 1, 11, and 16 are now moot and therefore respectfully request that claims 1, 4-9, 11, 14, 16 and 18-20 be passed to issue.

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CONCLUSION

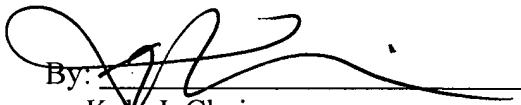
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

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